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Assistant Director, O/IC

21 February 1951

Assistant Director, O/RR

External Research

REFERENCE: Memorandum from AD/O to AD/IC dated February 17, 1951, subject: External Research.

1. I have seen a copy of reference memorandum and thought I would give you my initial comments forthwith.

with respect to request,
2. We are planning to set up an Economic Intelligence Committee, as I think you know, which will in all probability operate much like the Scientific Intelligence Committee. For external research of economic problems that committee would seem to me to be the place to do the planning and coordinating between agencies.

3. For external research in the political, cultural, sociological and psychological fields it is extremely doubtful in my mind whether CIA should undertake to do the coordination. As you know, I am convinced that substantive coordination can be effectively supplied only by people who are themselves actively engaged in research in the field in question and do, therefore, have a feeling for the subject matter and for the relative importance of different approaches to it. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] have spent a great deal of time and effort in becoming fully acquainted with institutions outside the Government capable of doing research, especially in the fields of interest to State, and I can see little point in attempting to deprive them of this function at this time.

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4. On the other hand it does seem to me important in view of the overlap between economic research and political, etc. research that we should have one or two people placed with [REDACTED] office to follow closely what they are doing. In short, I would propose keeping the External Research Staff, but make its activities in the economic field subject to the general control of the Economic Intelligence Committee when this is a going concern.

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MAX F. MILLIKAN

AD/RR:MFM:vcl

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